

### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

Please delete paragraph [0006], which begins on page 2, in its entirety, and replace it with the following replacement paragraph:

--[0006] In an exemplary embodiment of the invention, the peripheral rims have a lower end, opposite sides, and an upper end, and the zipper fastener extends around the sides and upper end of the peripheral rims, with the lower ends permanently secured together by a single connecting piece of fabric or other flexible fabric acting as a hinge. This permits the back pack to be completely opened, for easy access to its interior to allow items to be removed or inserted. A releasable retaining flap assembly may be provided between the base member and ~~other~~ outer shell to hold the back pack in a partially open position, and this may be released if the user wants to move the base member and outer shell farther away from one another into a completely open position. --